

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 2

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. Canceled.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The circuit of claim 1 wherein:~~ A circuit comprising:

the a compression circuit is coupled to receive the data values from a plurality of cells in a memory device and is being structured to generate first and second compressed data signals based on the data values, the first and second compressed data signals being equal to the data values if the data values are all the same and the first and second compressed data signals being different if the data values are not the same; and

~~the output circuit comprises~~ a double data rate circuit coupled to the compression circuit to receive the first and second compressed data signals and to a clock signal source to receive ~~the~~ a clock signal, the double data rate circuit being structured to produce the first compressed data signal during a leading edge of the clock signal and to produce the second compressed data signal during a trailing edge of the clock signal within each cycle of the clock signal.

3. (Original) The circuit of claim ~~2~~ ¹ wherein the compression circuit comprises:

a plurality of pull-up transistors coupled to intermediate nodes and structured to bring the intermediate nodes to a high voltage;

a plurality of pull-down transistors coupled between data latches structured to latch the data values and the intermediate nodes, the pull-down transistors being structured to generate intermediate signals at the intermediate nodes based on the data values; and

a logic circuit coupled between the intermediate nodes and the double data rate circuit, the logic circuit being structured to generate the first and second compressed data signals based on the intermediate signals.

4. (Canceled)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 3

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

3/ 3. (Currently Amended) ~~The circuit of claim 4 wherein:~~ A circuit comprising:
the compression circuit is a compression circuit having a plurality of inputs each coupled
to receive a data signal and a plurality of compression outputs, the compression outputs being
fewer than the inputs, the compression circuit being structured to generate first and second
signals at first and second compression outputs based on the data signals, the first and second
signals being equal to the data signals if the data signals are all the same and the first and second
signals being different if the data signals are not the same; and

the output circuit comprises a double data rate circuit coupled to the compression circuit
to receive the first and second signals and to a clock signal source to receive the a clock signal,
the double data rate circuit being structured to produce the first signal during a leading edge of
the clock signal and to produce the second signal during a trailing edge of the clock signal within
each cycle of the clock signal.

C/ 4. (Original) The circuit of claim ³ ~~3~~, further comprising:
a plurality of latch circuits, each latch circuit having an input coupled to a read data path
to receive a respective one of the data signals from a memory cell in a memory device and
having a pair of inverters each having an output connected to an input of the other inverter to
hold the data signal, the latch circuits being coupled together to the compression circuit; and
the inputs of the compression circuit are coupled to the latch circuits to receive the data
signals.

5. 4. (Original) The circuit of claim ⁴ ~~4~~ wherein the compression circuit comprises:
a plurality of pull-up transistors coupled to intermediate nodes and structured to bring the
intermediate nodes to a high voltage;
a plurality of pull-down transistors coupled between the latch circuits and the
intermediate nodes, the pull-down transistors being structured to generate intermediate signals at
the intermediate nodes based on the data signals; and

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 4

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

a logic circuit coupled between the intermediate nodes and the double data rate circuit, the logic circuit being structured to generate the first and second signals based on the intermediate signals.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The memory device of claim 8 wherein:~~ A memory device comprising:

a plurality of cells;

the compression circuit is a compression circuit coupled to receive data values from the cells and being structured to generate first and second compressed data signals based on the data values, the first and second compressed data signals being equal to the data values if the data values are all the same and the first and second compressed data signals being different if the data values are not the same; and

the output circuit comprises a double data rate circuit coupled to the compression circuit to receive the first and second compressed data signals and to a clock signal source to receive the a clock signal, the double data rate circuit being structured to produce the first compressed data signal during a leading edge of the clock signal and to produce the second compressed data signal during a trailing edge of the clock signal within each cycle of the clock signal.

10. (Original) The memory device of claim 9, further comprising:
addressing circuitry;
control lines;
address lines; and
data lines.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 5

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

11. (Original) The memory device of claim 10 wherein the compression circuit comprises:

a plurality of data latches, each data latch having an input coupled to a read data path to receive a data value read from one of the cells and a pair of inverters coupled to receive the data value, each inverter having an output connected to an input of the other inverter to hold the data value;

a plurality of pull-up transistors coupled to intermediate nodes and structured to bring the intermediate nodes to a high voltage;

a plurality of pull-down transistors coupled between the data latches and the intermediate nodes, the pull-down transistors being structured to generate intermediate signals at the intermediate nodes based on the data values;

a logic circuit coupled between the intermediate nodes and the double data rate circuit, the logic circuit being structured to generate the first and second compressed data signals based on the intermediate signals.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 12 wherein:~~ A system comprising:

a processor;

a memory device having a plurality of cells; and

a test circuit comprising:

a compression circuit coupled to receive data values from the cells and being structured to generate first and second signals at first and second compression outputs based on the data values, the first and second signals being equal to the data values if the data values are all the same and the first and second signals being different if the data values are not the same; and

the output circuit comprises a double data rate circuit coupled to the compression circuit to receive the first and second signals and to a clock signal source to receive a clock signal, the double data rate circuit being structured to produce the first signal during a leading edge of

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 6

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

the clock signal and to produce the second signal during a trailing edge of the clock signal within each cycle of the clock signal.

10.
14. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:
an input/output device; and
a bus connected to the processor, the memory device, and the input/output device.

11.
15. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:
a test machine including the processor;
a write circuit;
a read and data compression circuit including the test circuit; and
wherein the test machine, the write circuit, the read and data compression circuit, and the memory device are connected together by communication lines.

16. (Canceled)

12.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 16 wherein:~~ A system comprising:
a processor; and
a memory device having a plurality of cells and being connected to the processor, the
memory device having an internal test circuit comprising:

a compression circuit coupled to receive data values from the cells and being
~~the compression circuit~~ is structured to generate first and second signals at first and second
compression outputs based on the data values, the first and second signals being equal to the data
values if the data values are all the same and the first and second signals being different if the
data values are not the same; and

~~the output circuit comprises~~ a double data rate circuit coupled to the compression circuit
to receive the first and second signals and to a clock signal source to receive the a clock signal,
the double data rate circuit being structured to produce the first signal during a leading edge of

18

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 7

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

the clock signal and to produce the second signal during a trailing edge of the clock signal within each cycle of the clock signal.

13.
18. (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising:

a display unit;

an input/output device; and

a bus coupling the processor, the memory device, the display unit, and the input/output device.

14.
19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the system comprises a computer system, an information component, or an appliance.

20. (Canceled)

15.
21. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 20 wherein:~~ A test system comprising:

a test machine;

a memory device having a plurality of cells and being coupled to the test machine to be tested; and

test circuitry comprising:

a compression circuit coupled to receive data signals from the cells and being
~~the compression circuit~~ is structured to generate first and second signals at first and second compression outputs based on the data signals, the first and second signals being equal to the data signals if the data signals are all the same and the first and second signals being different if the data signals are not the same; and

~~the output circuit comprises~~ a double data rate circuit coupled to the compression circuit to receive the first and second signals and to a clock signal source to receive ~~the~~ a clock signal, the double data rate circuit being structured to produce the first signal during a leading edge of the clock signal and to produce the second signal during a trailing edge of the clock signal within each cycle of the clock signal.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 8

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

~~16.~~ 22. (Original) The system of claim ~~21~~¹⁵, further comprising a plurality of memory devices each having a plurality of cells, each of the memory devices being coupled to the test machine to be tested.

~~17.~~ 23. (Original) The system of claim ~~21~~¹⁵ wherein the test circuitry is located in the memory device.

~~18.~~ 24. (Original) The system of claim ~~21~~¹⁵ wherein the test circuitry is located in the test machine.

~~19.~~ 25. (Original) The system of claim ~~21~~¹⁵ wherein the test circuitry is located between the test machine and the memory device.

C1 [26. (Canceled)

~~20.~~ 27. (Currently Amended) ~~The memory device of claim 26 wherein:~~ A double data rate memory device comprising:

a plurality of cells;

a compression circuit coupled to receive data values from the cells and being

~~the compression circuit~~ is structured to generate first and second compressed data signals based on the data values, the first and second compressed data signals being equal to the data values if the data values are all the same and the first and second compressed data signals being different if the data values are not the same; and

~~the output circuit comprises~~ a double data rate circuit coupled to the compression circuit to receive the first and second compressed data signals and to a clock signal source to receive ~~the~~ a clock signal, the double data rate circuit being structured to produce the first compressed data signal during a leading edge of the clock signal and to produce the second compressed data signal during a trailing edge of the clock signal within each cycle of the clock signal.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 9

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

²¹
28. (Original) The memory device of claim ²⁰27, further comprising:

addressing circuitry;

control lines;

address lines;

data lines; and

a plurality of data latches, each data latch having an input coupled to a read data path to receive a data value read from one of the cells and a pair of inverters coupled to receive the data value, each inverter having an output connected to an input of the other inverter to hold the data value, the data latches being coupled together to the compression circuit.

²²
29. (Original) The memory device of claim ²¹28 wherein the compression circuit comprises:

a plurality of pull-up transistors coupled to intermediate nodes and structured to bring the intermediate nodes to a high voltage;

a plurality of pull-down transistors coupled between the data latches and the intermediate nodes, the pull-down transistors being structured to generate intermediate signals at the intermediate nodes based on the data values;

a logic circuit coupled between the intermediate nodes and the double data rate circuit, the logic circuit being structured to generate the first and second compressed data signals based on the intermediate signals.

²³
30. (Currently Amended) A memory device comprising:
a plurality of memory cells;

means for compressing a plurality of data values read from selected ones of the memory cells into test data first and second compressed data signals, the first and second compressed data signals being equal to the data values if the data values are all the same and the first and second compressed data signals being different if the data values are not the same; and

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 10

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

means for producing ~~the test data on edges of a clock signal~~ the first compressed data signal during a leading edge of a clock signal and the second compressed data signal during a trailing edge of the clock signal within each cycle of the clock signal.

24.
31.

(Currently Amended) A method for testing a memory device comprising:

writing data to cells in the memory device;

reading the cells to generate read data;

compressing the read data into first and second compressed data signals, the first and second compressed data signals being equal to the read data if all the read data are the same and the first and second compressed data signals being different if all the read data are not the same to generate test data; and

producing the test data at a single output on edges of a clock signal coupling the first compressed data signal to a single output on a rising edge of a clock signal and coupling the second compressed data signal to the single output on a falling edge of the clock signal through a double data rate circuit.

32-33. (Canceled)

25.
34.

(Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 ²⁴31, further comprising analyzing the first and second compressed data signals at the single output to determine that the cells store data properly if the first and second compressed data signals are the same and to determine that the cells do not store data properly if the first and second compressed data signals are not the same.

26.
35.

(Currently Amended) A method for testing a plurality of memory devices comprising:

writing data to cells in each memory device;

reading the cells to generate read data;

compressing the read data from each memory device to generate test data for each memory device, generating first and second compressed data signals to be equal to the read data of the memory device if all the read data from the memory device are the same and generating

22

C

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 11
Dkt. 303.550US1

Serial Number: 09/239898

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

the first and second compressed data signals to be different if all the read data from the memory device are not the same; and

producing the test data for each memory device at a single output on edges of a clock signal for each memory device, coupling the first compressed data signal to a single output on a rising edge of a clock signal and the second compressed data signal to the single output on a falling edge of the clock signal through a double data rate circuit.

27,
36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein:

compressing the read data comprises compressing the read data into two compressed data signals for each memory device; and

producing the test data comprises alternately coupling the two compressed data signals to the single output for each memory device

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further comprising analyzing the first and second compressed data signals for each memory device at the single output to determine that the cells in the memory device store data properly if the first and second compressed data signals are the same and to determine that the cells in the memory device do not store data properly if the first and second compressed data signals are not the same.

37. (Canceled)

28.
38. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an integrated circuit test machine comprising:

writing a test data value to selected cells in each of a plurality of memory devices;

reading the selected cells to generate read data for each memory device;

compressing the read data for each memory device into test data;

for each memory device, generating first and second compression signals to be equal to the read data if all the read data are the same and generating the first and second compression signals to be different if all the read data are not the same;

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 12

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

~~producing the test data for each memory device at a single output on edges of a clock signal for each memory device, coupling the first compression signal to a single output on a rising edge of a clock signal and the second compression signal to the single output on a falling edge of the clock signal through a double data rate circuit; and~~

analyzing the test data first and second compression signals at each output to determine if the selected cells in each memory device have stored the test data value properly.

[39-40. (Canceled)

29.
41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40 ²⁸ ~~38~~ wherein analyzing the test data first and second compression signals comprises analyzing the first and second compression signals at each output to determine that the selected cells stored the test data value properly if the first and second compression signals are the same and to determine that the selected cells did not store the test data value properly if the first and second compression signals are not the same.

[42. (Canceled)

30.
43. (Currently Amended) A method for testing a memory device comprising:
selecting a plurality of test cells from cells in the memory device;
writing a test data value to each of the selected cells;
reading each selected cell to generate a plurality of read data values;
latching the read data values;
compressing the read data values into two intermediate data values;
converting the intermediate data values into first and second compressed data values, the first and second compressed data values being equal to the read data values if the read data values are all the same, the first and second compressed data values being different if the read data values are not all the same;
generating a clock signal;

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 13

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

producing the first compressed data value at an output on a rising edge in a single period of the clock signal through a double data rate circuit;

producing the second compressed data value at the output on a falling edge in the single period of the clock signal through the double data rate circuit; and

analyzing the first and second compressed data values at the output to determine that the cells in the memory device stored the test data value properly if the first and second compressed data values are equal.

31.

44. (Currently Amended) A method for testing a double data rate memory device comprising:

writing data to cells in the memory device;

reading the cells to generate read data;

compressing the read data to generate test data generating first and second compressed data signals to be equal to the read data if all the read data are the same and generating the first and second compressed data signals to be different if all the read data are not the same; and

producing the test data at an output of a double data rate circuit on edges of a clock signal coupling the first compressed data signal to an output of a double data rate circuit on a rising edge of a clock signal and coupling the second compressed data signal to the output of the double data rate circuit on a falling edge of the clock signal.

32.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44 wherein:

compressing the read data comprises generating first and second compressed data signals to be equal to the read data if all the read data are the same and generating the first and second compressed data signals to be different if all the read data are not the same; and

producing the test data comprises coupling the first compressed data signal to the output of the double data rate circuit on a rising edge of the clock signal and coupling the second compressed data signal to the output of the double data rate circuit on a falling edge of the clock signal, further comprising analyzing the first and second compressed data signals at the output of the double data rate circuit to determine that the cells in the memory device store data properly if

25

C

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Page 14

Serial Number: 09/239898

Dkt: 303.550US1

Filing Date: January 29, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TESTING A MEMORY DEVICE WITH COMPRESSED DATA USING A SINGLE OUTPUT

C1 the first and second compressed data signals are the same and to determine that the cells in the memory device do not store data properly if the first and second compressed data signals are not the same.

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